

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 20, 26-28, 30, 35, 36, 38, 44, 45, 47 and 53-60 are pending in the present application. Claims 20, 27, 30, 35, 38, 47, 53, 54, 57 and 58 have been amended and claims 24, 25, 33, 34, 42, 43, 50 and 51 have been canceled by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 20, 24-28, 30, 33-36, 38, 42-45, 47, 50, 51, 53 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Na et al. in view of Okada et al. and Takehiko et al.; and claims 55-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Na et al. in view of Okada et al., Takehiko et al. and Slattery.

Claims 20, 24-28, 30, 33-36, 38, 42-45, 47, 50, 51, 53 and 54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Na et al. in view of Okada et al. and Takehiko et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 20 has been amended to include the subject recited in dependent claims 24 and 25. Independent claims 30, 38, 47, 53 and 54 have been amended in a similar manner.

As noted in the previously filed response, none of the previously applied references teach or suggest directly reading an MPEG transport stream from an optical disc, but rather teach the conventional method of reading a program stream from a disc. Thus, a program stream/transport stream converter was required. It is respectfully noted Na et al. and Takehiko et al. both relate to reading program streams from an optical disc.

The Office Action also applies a new reference Okada et al. as teaching the claimed feature of reading an MPEG transport stream directly from a recording medium. However, it is respectfully noted the filing date of Okada et al. is October 12, 1999, which is later than the claimed priority date of the present application (i.e., August 12, 1999). Accordingly, an English translation of the claimed priority document and a Statement indicating the translation is accurate are being filed herewith to remove Okada et al. as a reference. Applicant respectfully submits the claimed subject matter is fully supported by the priority document.

Further, it is respectfully noted Takehiko et al. only teaches inserting a disc continuity flag in an isochronous packet in order to interface with an IEEE 1394 interface (see column 7, lines 1-9). Thus, Takehiko et al. does not teach or suggest inserting the disc continuity flag between two of the transport packets existing in a read MPEG transport stream as claimed by the present invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 20, 30, 38, 47, 53 and 54 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

In addition, the method claims have been amended to be tied a particular apparatus to avoid a rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of record, and earnestly solicit an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David A. Bilodeau (Registration No. 42,325) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

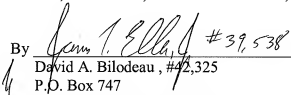
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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